(2) The belief might have been that the disease was only slightly contagious.

(3) The question of opening a leper colony in a convenient place in Kudamon pakuthi (Kunnattur taluk) is being considered.

Conversion of the Village Road from Mavelikara-Pantalam Road to Kunnattur Market.

67. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the repeated requests of the inhabitants of Iravankara, Tazhakara and the neighbouring places in Mavelikara taluk for turning the village road running southwards from the 2nd milestone on the Mavelikara-Pantalam road to Kunnattur market into a cart road, and the construction of an irrigation culvert at the northern end of the road?

(2) Are the Government aware of the losses and difficulties which the people suffer for want of the road and the culvert?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to expedite the works concerned?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The road is reported to be steep and of little use for carts. The construction of an irrigation culvert is also reported to be not urgently necessary.

(2) The Chief Engineer has received a petition, but the Government are not convinced of the necessity for the conversion of the road and the construction of the culvert at the Government cost.

(3) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (2).

Lands under Tea cultivation.

68. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to ascertain and state the following particulars in regard to tea cultivation in the State:—

(*a*) the area of lands which have already been marked out by the Government as available for tea cultivation in the State;

(*b*) the area of lands already assigned for tea cultivation;

(*c*) the area of lands assigned for tea cultivation in the State, owned by Travancoreans or companies incorporated in Travancore and the area owned by Europeans or companies incorporated in Europe;

(*d*) the area of lands, left uncultivated, out of those already assigned for tea cultivation;

(*e*) the area of lands still remaining to be assigned out of the total area referred to in part (*a*);

(*f*) whether the land referred to in part (*a*) is suitable for cultivating any one or more of the following crops, *viz.*, potatoes, grapes, rubber, plantains, bananas, yams, tapioca, hill rice, maize, raggi, peas, gram, Bengal-gram, onions and dhal;

(*g*) whether the lands assigned and marked out for tea cultivation are allowed by the Government to be used for other cultivation;

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